Claims 2 to 11 as preliminarily amended:

2. A compound of formula I

$$R^{6} - Z - C - CH - Y - N - X$$

$$R^{5} R R$$

$$R^{3}$$

$$(1)$$

where R is formyl, tetrazole, nitrile, a COOH group or a radical which can be hydrolyzed to COOH, and the other substituents have the following meanings:

- R^2 hydrogen, hydroxyl, NH_2 , $NH(C_1-C_4-alkyl)$, $N(C_1-C_4-alkyl)_2$, halogen, $C_1-C_4-alkyl$, $C_1-C_4-haloalkyl$, $C_1-C_4-alkoxy$, $C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy$ or $C_1-C_4-alkylthio$;
- X CR^{14} which forms together with CR^3 a 5- or 6-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_1 - C_4 -alkyl groups and which ring consists of methylene and/or ethenylene members and one member selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, NH or $N(C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl), or CR^{14} which forms together with CR^3 a 6-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_1 - C_4 -alkyl groups and which ring consists of methylene and/or ethenylene members;
- ${\bf R}^3$ is linked to ${\bf CR}^{14}$ as indicated above to give a 6-membered ring;
- R^4 and R^5 , which are identical or different, are

phenyl or naphthyl, which are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino or C_1 - C_4 -dialkylamino; or

phenyl or naphthyl, which are connected together in the ortho position via a direct linkage, a methylene, ethylene or ethenylene group, an oxygen or sulfur atom or an SO_2 , NH or N-alkyl group; or

C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl;

R⁶ hydrogen, C_1-C_8 -alkyl, C_3-C_6 -alkenyl, C_3-C_6 -alkynyl or C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl, where each of these radicals are unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by: halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_3-C_6 -alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6 -alkynyloxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylthio, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylcarbonyl,

 C_1-C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_3-C_8 -alkylcarbonylalkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, di- C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, phenyl or phenoxy which is substituted one or more times by halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1-C_4 -alkylthio;

phenyl or naphthyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, phenoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylamino, C_1-C_4 -dialkylamino or dioxomethylene or dioxoethylene;

a five or six-membered heteroaromatic moiety containing one to three nitrogen atoms and/or one sulfur or oxygen atom, which can carry one to four halogen atoms and/or one or two of the following radicals: C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio, phenyl, phenoxy or phenylcarbonyl, it being possible for the phenyl radicals in turn to carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloal-kyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloal-kyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloal-kyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloal-kyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio;

- Y sulfur or oxygen or a single bond;
- z sulfur, oxygen, -SO- or $-SO_2-$.
- 3. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein \mathbb{R}^{14} together with \mathbb{R}^3 is a radical selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, -CH=CH-O-, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-O-$, and $-C(CH_3)=C(CH_3)-S-$.
- 4. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein R is ${\rm CO}_2{\rm H}$.
- 5. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein \mathbb{R}^2 is methoxy.
- 6. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein \mathbb{R}^4 and \mathbb{R}^5 each are phenyl.
- 7. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein R^6 is $C_1-C_8-alkyl$.
- 8. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein Y is oxygen.

- 9. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein Z is oxygen or sulfur.
- 10. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein Z is oxygen.
- 11. The compound of formula I as defined in claim 2, wherein R is tetrazole, nitrile or a group

where R1 has the following meanings:

- a) hydrogen;
- b) succinylimidoxy;
- c) a five-membered heteroaromatic ring linked by a nitrogen atom, selected from the group consisting of: pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl and triazolyl, which ring can carry one or two halogen atoms and or one or two of the following radicals: C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy or C₁-C₄-alkylthio;
- d) a radical $(O)_m \sqrt{\frac{R^7}{R^8}}$, where m is 0 or 1 and R^7 and R^8 , which

are identical or different, have the following meanings:

- hydrogen,
- C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-alkynyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, where these alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl groups can each carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one or two of the following groups: C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkenylthio, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy or C₃-C₆-alkynylthio,
- C_1-C_4 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_3-C_6 -alkenylcarbonyl, C_3-C_6 -alkynylcarbonyl, C_3-C_6 -alkynyloxycarbonyl,
- phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by halogen, nitro, cyano, C_3 - C_6 -alkenylcarbonyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio,
- di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, or

 R^7 and R^8 together form a C_4 - C_7 -alkylene chain which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and may contain a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of oxygen,

sulfur and nitrogen, or R^7 and R^8 together form a CH_2 -CH=CH- CH_2 or CH=CH-(CH_2)₃ chain;

- e) a radical O— $(CH_2)_p$ S— R^9 , where k is 0, 1 and 2, p is 1, 2, 3 and 4, and R^9 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl or phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by halogen, nitro, cyano, C_3 - C_6 -alkenylcarbonyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-thio;
- f) a radical OR^{10} , where R^{10} is
 - hydrogen, the cation of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal or an environmentally compatible organic ammonium ion;
 - C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl which may carry one to three C₁-C₄-alkyl groups;
 - C₁-C₈-alkyl which may carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one of the following radicals: C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkyl-thio, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, phenyl, phenoxy or phenylcarbonyl, where the aromatic radicals in turn may carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy and/or C₁-C₄-alkylthio;
 - C₁-C₈-alkyl which may carry one to five halogen atoms and which carries one of the following radicals: a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one to three nitrogen atoms or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen or sulfur atom, which may carry one to four halogen atoms and/or one or two of the following radicals: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, phenyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy and/or C₁-C₄-alkylthio;
 - C_2-C_6 -alkyl which carries one of the following radicals in position 2: C_1-C_4 -alkoxyimino, C_3-C_6 -alkynyloxyimino, C_3-C_6 -haloalkenyloxyimino or benzyloxyimino;
 - C₃-C₆-alkenyl or C₃-C₆-alkynyl which may carry one to five halogen atoms;
 - phenyl which may carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy and/or C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio;

- a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring which is bonded via a nitrogen atom and containing one to three nitrogen atoms, which may carry one or two halogen atoms and or one or two of the following radicals: C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, phenyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy and/or C₁-C₄-alkylthio;
- a radical $N = \begin{pmatrix} R^{11} \\ \\ R^{12} \end{pmatrix}$ where R^{11} and R^{12} , which are identical

or different are:

 C_1-C_8 -alkyl, C_3-C_6 -alkenyl, C_3-C_6 -alkynyl, C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl, it being possible for these radicals to carry a C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylthio and/or phenyl which may carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy and/or C_1-C_4 -alkylthio; phenyl which may carry one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1-C_4 -alkylthio; or C_1 -alkoxy, C_1 -c4-haloalkoxy or C_1 -c4-alkylthio; or C_1 -alkylene chain which may carry one to three C_1 -c4-alkyl groups and which may contain a hetero atom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

g) a radical — NH —
$$\stackrel{O}{\underset{}{\parallel}}$$
 — $\stackrel{O}{\underset{}{\parallel}}$ Or — $\stackrel{O}{\underset{}{\parallel}}$ — $\stackrel{O}{\underset{}{\parallel}}$ Where 13 is $\stackrel{O}{\underset{}{\parallel}}$

- C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_3-C_6 -alkenyl, C_3-C_6 -alkynyl, C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl, it being possible for these radicals to carry a C_1-C_4 -alkoxy, C_1-C_4 -alkylthio and/or a phenyl radical, or
- phenyl which may carry one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio.